

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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OMB-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 IO-10 /102 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 643

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 11044

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

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SUMMARY: IN AN INDEPENDENCE DAY INTERVIEW WITH THE CONGRESS'

WEEKLY, SOCIALIST INDIA, PRIME MINISTER GANDHI ATTACKED UNNAMED WESTERN COUNTRIES, THEIR PRESS, AND THE WESTERNISM OF INDIA'S INTELLIGENTSIA. SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS "AMUSED" BY THEIR "SUDDEN LOVE FOR DEMOCRACY." THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THEM THAT "ECONOMIC AID WAS DENIED TO INDIA BY SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES DURING THE BANGLADESH WAR" AND THEN CITED THE CHILEAN EXAMPLE. SHE CONTINUED: "I HAVE WARNED OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. OUR DOUBTS AND FEARS ARE CONFIRMED BY THE BEHAVIOUR OF IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF THE WESTERN PRESS, TV AND RADIO." SHE RHETORICALLY ASKED WHERE THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, WHO WERE CONDUCTING A HATE-INDIA CAMPAIGN, WERE GETTING THEIR FUNDING. THE ABSENCE OF MAJOR INCIDENTS IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS, SHE SAID, DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE "THREAT HAS RECEDED." SHE RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A ONE-PARTY RULE IN INDIA. THE CPI DAILY, PATRIOT, NWF AUGUST 12 CARRIED A VITRIOLIC EDITORIAL ENTITLED "FORD'S NON-VISIT." THE PENTAGON, THE CIA, PRESIDENT FORD, AND AMBASSADOR SAXBE WERE ALL SUBJECT TO THE PAPER'S ABUSE, WHICH CONCLUDED THAT THE CANCELLATION OF PRESIDENT FORD'S TRIP TO INDIA WILL NOT CAUSE MUCH REGRET SINCE THE "DESTABILIZATION" AND "SABOTAGE" WOULD HAVE CONTINUED EVEN AFTER THE VISIT, "PERHAPS THE MORE DANGEROUSLY BECAUSE OF THE MASK OF FRIENDLINESS." LABOR MINISTER REDDY, AN OLD PRO AT ANTI-AMERICANISM, REPEATED THE ALLEGATION THAT THE REACTIONARY RIGHT IN INDIA WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH "FOREIGN REACTIONARY FORCES." THE JANA SANG LEADER, MADHAV RAO SCINDIA, EX-MAHARAJA OF POONA AND MP FROM MADHYA PRADESH, AND HIS MOTHER, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE JANA SANG, ARE THOUGHT TO BE IN HIDING. THE CONGRESS IS EXPLOITING THE EMERGENCY TO FURTHER ERODE SCINDIA AND JANA SANGH CONTROL IN MADHYA PRADESH. IN HIS REMARKS TO A DMK DISTRICT CONFERENCE, AUGUST 10, CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE WITHIN HIS PARTY FAVORING A STRONGER ANTI-GOVT LINE AND AVOIDING GIVING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT A PRETEXT FOR IMPOSING PRESIDENT'S RULE. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE TAMIL NADU YOUTH CONGRESS HAS CALLED FOR THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE IN THAT STATE. END SUMMARY.

1. MRS. GANDHI LASHED OUT AT HER FOREIGN CRITICS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE INDEPENDENCE DAY (AUGUST 15) ISSUE OF THE CONGRESS PARTY'S WEEKLY, SOCIALIST INDIA. "HOW IS IT THAT WESTERN NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN GIVING SUCH A BUILDUP TO OUR OPPOSITION AND ITS

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ANTICS? I AM AMUSED BY THE SUDDEN LOVE FOR DEMOCRACY MARKED BY THE VOICE IN THE WEST AND MUCH OF OUR INTELLIGENTSIA WHICH IS WESTERN ORIENTED. HAVE THEY FORGOTTEN HOW WE WERE TREATED LONG BEFORE THE EMERGENCY? WHAT WAS THE ATTITUDE OF MANY OF THESE PAPERS TO MAHATMA GANDHI? THE CONSTANT CRITICISM OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU? THE SUSTAINED SUPPORT TO AYUB KHAN AND YAHYA KHAN? DO THEY NOT KNOW THAT ECONOMIC AID WAS DENIED TO INDIA BY SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES DURING THE BANGLADESH WAR? HAVE THESE SEVERAL WESTERN COUNTRIES NOT

GIVEN FULL MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE MOST AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES OF AFRICA AND ASIA? HAVE WE SO SOON FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED TO CHILE? I HAVE WARNED OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. OUR DOUBTS AND FEARS ARE CONFIRMED BY THE BEHAVIOUR OF IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF THE WESTERN PRESS, TV AND RADIO." SHE THEN ATTACKED THE BBC, THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. SHE SAID THAT THE LATTER TWO ORGANIZATIONS WERE "VERY ACTIVE IN THE HATE-INDIA CAMPAIGN, THEY ARE FLUSH WITH FUNDS. ONE WONDERS FROM WHERE THESE COME." MRS. GANDHI STRESSED THE PERSONAL NATURE OF THE FOREIGN MEDIA ATTACK ON HER, REFERRING TO ALLEGATIONS THAT SHE DRANK. "ACTUALLY NEITHER MY FAMILY NOR I SMOKE OR TAKE ANYTHING ALCOHOLIC. MY SONS DON'T EVEN DRINK TEA OR COFFEE." ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT THE POLITICAL SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE ABSENCE OF "MAJOR INCIDENTS IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE THREAT HAS RECEDED. SHE CITED THE DANGER OF SABOTAGE AND VIOLENCE FROM THE RSS AND THE MORCHA. EVEN THOUGH SOME OPPOSITION LEADERS HAD NOW DISCLAIMED THEIR OWN STATEMENTS AND INTENTIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: "THEIR WORDS ARE TOO FRESH AND TOO WIDELY KNOWN." SHE EXPLAINED THAT SHE WAS THE TARGET OF THIS OPPOSITION BECAUSE OF HER "TENACITY IN HOLDING FAST TO OUR POLICIES OF SECULARISM AND NON-ALIGNMENT." MRS. GANDHI RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE-PARTY RULE IN INDIA. SHE DENIED THAT "ALL OPPOSITION HAS BEEN GAGGED EVEN NOW," CITING THE FACT THAT THERE WERE NON-CONGRESS GOVERNMENTS IN TAMIL NADU, GUJARAT, AND GOA. ON INDIA'S FEDERALISM, MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT WHILE THE CENTER SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO HOLD THE COUNTRY TOGETHER AND DEAL WITH BASIC NATIONAL CHALLENGES, THE STATES HAD A "CONSIDERABLE" ROLE. SHE SAID THAT SHE DID "NOT ENVISAGE ANY CHANGE IN THIS CONCEPT." FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW BEING FURNISHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. THE CPI DAILY, PATRIOT, OF AUGUST 12 CARRIED AN ABUSIVE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "FORD'S NON-VISIT." THE PENTAGON WAS SCORED FOR REGARDING INDIA AS "THE MAIN OBSTRUCTION TO U.S. DOMINATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOUTHERN AND WESTERN FLANKS OF ASIA;" THE CIA FOR MAKING INDIA THE CHIEF TARGET IN ASIA FOR ITS "DESTABILIZATION EXERCISES," "OF WHICH WE HAVE SOME PROOF IN THE SUBVERSION MOVEMENTS QUINNED BY THE REACTIONARY PARTIES;" PRESIDENT FORD FOR HIS "INEPT RE-MARK" ABOUT THE DEMISE OF DEMOCRACY IN INDIA; AMBASSADOR SAXBE FOR HAVING "SNEERED AT INDIAN PRETENSIONS TO SELF-RESPECT IN ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS," ETC., ETC. THE PATRIOT EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT THE "CANCELLATION" WILL NOT CAUSE MUCH REGRET IN INDIA, SINCE THE "DESTABILIZATION" AND "SABOTAGE" WOULD HAVE CONTINUED EVEN AFTER THE VISIT, "PERHAPS THE MORE DANGEROUSLY BECAUSE OF THE MASK OF FRIENDLINESS," BUT IT (THE "CANCELLATION") NEED NOT HAVE BEEN DONE "IN THE CLUMSY FOOTBALLER'S STYLE."

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OR 2 NEW DELHI 11044

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3. UNION LABOR MINISTER RAGUNATHA REDDY ADDRESSING A CONGRESS (R)

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AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONVENTION IN TRIVANDRUM AUGUST 10 STATED THAT THE EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED WHEN THE "RIGHT REACTIONARY FORCES IN INDIA WERE TRYING TO SABOTAGE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN COLLUSION WITH FOREIGN REACTIONARY FORCES."

4. CPI DAILY, PATRIOT, AUGUST 12 REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER GANDHI WILL INAUGURATE THE "ALL-INDIA CONVENTION OF VETERAN REVOLUTIONARIES AND FREEDOM FIGHTERS AGAINST FASCISM AND RIGHT REACTION" ON AUGUST 15. ALTHOUGH SHE IS UNLIKELY TO REFEGMJTO IT, THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED STATES: "TO GIVE UNBRIDLED FREEDOM TO THE MONOPOLY INTERESTS, CIA, IMPERIALISTS AND RIGHT REACTIONARY PARTIES THAT WERE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SABOTAGE, ETC. WAS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEMOCRATIC FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY. IT WAS DANGEROUS NOT TO PUT CURBS ON THE RIGHT REACTIONARY PRESS."

5. THE PRO-COMMUNIST WEEKLY, BLITZ, SUGGESTED IN ITS AUGUST 9 ISSUE THAT THE LEFT IS BEGINNING TO CHAFE UNDER THE REGIME OF CENSORSHIP. ITS DELHI CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT SOME JOURNALISTS "WERE AFRAID THAT THE VAST COMPLEX OF STATE MACHINERY NOW POISED AGAINST THE RIGHT REACTION CAN BE SWITCHED IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION AT A DIFFERENT TARGET IN A MATTER OF DAYS." THE ARTICLE CARRIES THE HEADLINE: "LEFTIST PAPERS AT THE CROSSROADS: IS EMERGENCY AIMED ONLY AT REACTIONARIES?"

6. CONGEN BOMBAY RECENTLY LEARNED THAT INCOME TAX SQUADS ON AUGUST 7 SIMULTANEOUSLY RAIDED THE BUSINESS PREMISES AND RESIDENCE OF THE PROMINENT JANA SANGH LEADER, MADHAV RAO SCINDIA, EX-MAHARAJA OF GWALIOR AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM MADHYA PRADESH. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SCINDIA AND HIS MOTHER, VIJAYA RAJE SCINDIA (VICE PRESIDENT OF THE JANA SANGH), ARE IN HIDING.

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ZHGH CONTROL IN MADH
HYA PRADESH. THE PRESS REPORTS A GENERAL EXODUS FROM THE JANA
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SANGH IN ALL PARTS OF THE STATE. FIVE LEGISLATORS AND ONE MP HAVE ALREADY RESIGNED FROM THE PARTY.

7. ADDRESSING A DMK DISTRICT CONFERENCE (TIRUNELVELI), AUGUST 10
CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI ANSWERED CRITICS WHO HAVE ACCUSED THE
DMK OF HAVING GROWN COWARDLY IN ITS OPPOSITION TO THE
GOI. "TO-

DAY, THERE ARE SEVERAL PERSONS WHO SPEAK IN SILENCE, OR SPEAK WITH
THEIR EYES, OR WITH THEIR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS ABOUT THE PRESENT
POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. BUT WE IN TAMIL NADU HAVE
THE PRIVILEGE AND FACILITIES TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS ON THE POLI-
TICAL SITUATION IN INDIA AT CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC MEETINGS SUCH
AS THIS. BUT WE ARE VERY CAREFUL THAT SUCH PRIVILEGES AND FA-
CILITIES DO NOT OBSTRUCT THE RESTORATION OF THE NORMAL SITUA-
589, 2#8:# 23 \$3SIRE AND EXPECT. CONFRONTATION IS A SIMPLE MAT-
TER. BUT WHAT MATTERS MOST ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF A CONFRONTA-
TION..." THE CHIEF MINISTER CONCLUDED BY ASKING MRS. GANDHI TO AC-
CEPT WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION "THE LITTLE HELP" THE DMK HAD DECIDED
TO OFFER IN SERVING THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY. THE CONFERENCE RESOLU-
TION WELCOVED THE GOI'S 20- POINT PROGRAM AND CONGRATULATED THE
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU FOR HAVING ALREADY IMPLEMENTED SEVERAL
OF THE POINTS. (COMMENT: WHILE RECOGNIZING THE ANTI-STATE OF
EMERGENCY SENTIMENTS WITH THE DMK, KARUNANIDHI IS MAKING IT HARD
FOR MRS. GANDHI TO FIND A PRETEXT TO IMPOSE PRESIDENT'S RULE IN
TAMIL NADU.)

8. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE TAMIL NADU YOUTH CONGRESS AU-
GUST 11 ADOPTED A RESOLUTION DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE "REMOVAL"
OF THE DMK GOVERNMENT AND THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE. THE
PRESIDENT OF THE YOUTH CONGRESS CRITICIZED THE TAMIL NADU GOV-
ERNMENT FOR NOT HAVING CONVENED THE STATE LEGISLATURE FOLLOWING THE
PROCLAMATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY.

9. CONGEN CALCUTTA HAS NOW CONFIRMED THAT THE CONGRESS (O) PRO-
TEST MARCH PLANNED FOR AUGUST 7 / 2-3\$,093, UP BY THE POLICE AT THE
OUTSET. THE ORGANIZERS
LPDGZ A HANDFUL OF PARTICIPANTS WERE ARRESTED,
DETAINED FOR A FEW HOURS, AND THEN RELEASED. ALL THIS WAS DONE
WITHOUT MUCH FUSS ON EITHER SIDE.

10. THE DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED BY THE JANA SANGH IN THREE LOCA-
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TIONS IN BOMBAY AUGUST 9 WERE ABLE TO DRAW CROWDS OF ONLY 100-200.
OPPOSITION ACTIVITY IN THAT CITY CONSISTS LARGELY OF THE UNDER-
GROUND CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS SUCH AS THE FULL TEXT OF MOHAN
DHARIA'S JULY 22 SPEECH TO THE LOK SABHA.
SAXBE

NOTE BY OC/T: NEW DELHI 11044 SECTION 2 OF 2 TEXT GARBLED.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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